

The U.S. Embassy Vienna and the American Studies Division of the University of Vienna cordially invite you to

“Erika and Klaus Mann: Traitors to the Fatherland”

A presentation with film clips by **Dr. Andrea Weiss**, City College of New York

Welcome and Introductions: Kellee Farmer, Cultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy Vienna
Prof. Dr. Birgit Däwes, American Studies Division, University of Vienna

AMERIKA HAUS

Monday, May 11, 2015

6:00 pm

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Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna



Dr. Andrea Weiss is an internationally acclaimed documentary filmmaker and nonfiction author. She is the co-writer/director of "Escape To Life," a feature documentary about the lives of Erika and Klaus Mann, which she will talk about in Vienna. Among her other film credits are "I Live At Ground Zero," "Seed Of Sarah," "Paris Was A Woman," and "Before Stonewall," for which she won an Emmy Award. Her company, Jezebel Productions, has been honored with retrospective screenings in Hamburg, Zurich and Berlin, and she currently teaches at the City College of New York.

In "Erika and Klaus Mann: Traitors to the Fatherland," Andrea Weiss will talk about the eldest children of German author Thomas Mann, who were intellectuals, homosexuals, and pacifists living as exiles under the shadow of Hitler's rise. Filled with contradictions, their fascinating lives stand as a testament to the power of the individual — and art — against the forces of history.

Jezebel Productions was founded in 1984 by Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss. Its aim is to produce educational films about real people whose lives can inspire viewers to laugh, think and learn. The company has been based in New York City and London since 1998. The films have garnered two Emmies, dozens of film festival awards around the world and have been broadcast in over 25 countries. Jezebel Productions grew out of Andrea Weiss' and Greta Schiller's collaboration on the groundbreaking documentary, *Before Stonewall*, directed by Schiller in 1984. The film was the first gay or lesbian film to be funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. When the film was broadcast nationally over PBS, the response ranged from disgust and outrage that public television would show such a film to people writing in that the film was a lifeline. Schiller and Weiss won Emmy Awards, Independent Spirit Awards, and dozens of domestic and international awards. The film launched their careers in the international independent film scene.

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